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August 19, 2002

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L Garthwaite, M.D.   
Director and Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: **HEALTH CARE TRANSPORTATION - TRANSPORTATION AND  
HUMAN SERVICES EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

This memorandum is in response to the October 19, 1999 Board motion requesting a report on the expansion of the countywide Transportation and Human Services Executive Council (Council) to address transportation services to improve health care access for the medically indigent.

The Health Care Transportation Committee of the Council has not met recently. As there has been little transportation funding to plan for, the Committee has also been awaiting the results of a resource inventory survey, and human services transportation planning coordination is being reorganized. Where funding has been available, funding was allocated from the Health Resources and Services Administration Community Access Project (HRSA CAP) Initiative to community-based planning groups in all eight of the Service Planning Areas. Each of the groups will collect data on the health care transportation needs and experiences of low-income patients. A consultant has been hired to help address the survey development questions, develop the survey methodology, and compile the results.

At the July 24, 2002 meeting of the Council, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) presented the transportation projects of the Phase II of the Welfare-To-Work Transportation Plan that were recently approved by the Board of Supervisors. These include the Unanticipated Transportation Needs Services Program (U-TRANS), the enhanced job search, vanpools and shuttles, vehicle diagnosis, retirement and repair, and the enhanced CalWORKS transportation services delivery system. A number of projects were not funded, including TRANSTAR and vehicle access.

Consultants from Multisystems recently completed a countywide resource assessment survey of transportation services, with the assistance of Access Services staff, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA), the Los Angeles County Department of Health (DHS), DPSS, Department of Aging, the City of Los Angeles and the members of the project Steering Committee. The results of the survey have been analyzed and compiled. The survey report contains an inventory of specialized transportation providers and an action plan with recommendations and strategies for improved coordination of transportation services in Los Angeles County to:

- Create a structure for regional coordination planning and implementation, such as a regional coordinating council.
- Enhance public information efforts.
- Implement a travel training program.
- Implement a universal fare system.
- Expand sub-regional paratransit services.
- Pilot local coordination projects.
- Create a technical assistance grant program.

The report also recommends the creation of a regional coordinating council to improve the coordination of transportation services. LACMTA staff intend to work with DPSS to consider the need for continuing the Transportation and Human Services Executive Council, as the work and focus of both the Council and the proposed regional coordinating council will be related and on the whole duplicative. The membership of both groups would largely be the same with representatives from the transportation, health and human services fields.

The final report will be presented for approval to the boards of both Access Services, Inc. and LACMTA shortly.

Additionally, DHS is currently meeting with LACMTA staff to work out approaches to address the transportation issues that will be intensifying as a result of the DHS Redesign Plan.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

TLG:JF:rl  
909:013

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Director of Public Social Services  
Director of Mental Health